

the other of said strands comprises a compound [of claim 1] having chemical modifications that are resistant to single-stranded nucleases or increase affinity for the other strand of the substrate.

--94. A double-stranded RNA comprising a duplex of a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide wherein said first and said second oligonucleotides each include a portion having at least four consecutive ribofuranosyl residues having phosphodiester linkages and wherein said portions are base-paired with each other in said duplex.

95. A double-stranded RNA comprising a duplex of a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide wherein said first and said second oligonucleotides each include a portion having at least four consecutive ribofuranosyl residues that are base-paired with each other in said duplex; and

at least one of said first and said second oligonucleotides includes a chemical modification that makes said oligonucleotide resistant to single-stranded nucleases.

96. A double-stranded RNA comprising a duplex of a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide wherein said first and said second oligonucleotides each include a portion that are base-paired with each other in said duplex; and

at least one of said first and said second oligonucleotides have a further portion that includes a chemical modification that increases the affinity of said oligonucleotide for the other oligonucleotide.

97. A double-stranded RNA comprising a duplex of a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide wherein said first and said second oligonucleotides each include a portion having at least four consecutive ribofuranosyl residues and where said portions are base paired with each other in said duplex; and

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Applicant submits that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and an early Office Action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul K. Legaard

Registration No. 38,534

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WOODCOCK WASHBURN KURTZ
MACKIEWICZ & NORRIS LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439